GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1799
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2016
Percentage of Forest Land
Khan Shri Md. Badariddoza

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of land in the country under forests cover;
(b) whether the percentage has changed during the last few years and if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year; and
(c) whether any forest land has been acquired for any major project in public sector or private sector during the said period and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) As per India State of Forest Report-2015, the total forest cover in the country is 7,01,673 square kilometers which is 21.34% of the total geographical area of the country.

(b) The Forest Survey of India has been carrying out assessment of forest cover on biennial basis since 1987 using remote sensing technology. India State of Forest Report-2015 is the latest in the series. The total forest cover and percentage thereof as per India State of Forest Reports 2011, 2013 and 2015 are given as under:-

S. No. Year Total Forest Cover (in Square Kilometer) Percentage of the forest cover to the total Geographical area Remarks
1 India State of Forest Report-2011 692,027/- 21.05 ____

2 India State of Forest Report-2013 697,898/- 21.23 Increase of 5,871 square kilometer
3 India State of Forest Report-2015 701,673/- 21.34 Increase of 3775 square kilometer

(c) Use of forest areas for such activities are approved by the Central Government under the Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 with adequate environmental safeguards and afforestation measures in lieu of forest land proposed to be utilized for developmental activities. The state wise and category wise details of the forest area diverted for non forestry purpose under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during each of the last three years and current year are given in Annexure.
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